

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:REBUTLER:REB
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S/S- PSEBASTIAN
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
PA, S/S, S/PRS

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O 131846Z AUG 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOR COURTNEY SHELDON FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, US

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JACK W. GERMOND BY-LINER WASHINGTON
STAR, AUGUST 13, HEADED "KISSINGER DEAD WEIGHT IN FORD'S
RACE TO WIRE."

2. KANSAS CITY -- SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER IS
PROVING TO BE A CLEAR POLITICAL LIABILITY TO PRESIDENT FORD
IN THE CONTEST FOR THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION
THAT IS UNDER WAY HERE.

3. ON THE ONE HAND, FORD OBVIOUSLY FEELS A NEED TO DEFEND
AND JUSTIFY HIS CHIEF FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER. AND SUCH
FORD LIEUTENANTS AS VICE PRESIDENT NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER
HAVE BEEN DOING JUST THAT IN THEIR APPEARANCES BEFORE THE
PLATFORM COMMITTEE.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PRESIDENT CANNOT GO BEYOND PER-
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FUNCTORY SUPPORT FOR KISSINGER WITHOUT RISKING REPUDIATION

BY THE CONVENTION HE HOPES WILL GIVE HIM THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION NEXT WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

5. SUPPORTERS OF RONALD REAGAN, PRESIDENT FORD'S COMPETITION

FOR THE NOMINATION, RECOGNIZE THIS AND ARE CONSTANTLY PROBING THE SORE SPOTS IN THE DEBATE OVER FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY.

6. IN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO A PLATFORM SUBCOMMITTEE AND WIDELY IGNORED, REAGAN'S CHOSEN RUNNINGMATE, SEN. RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER OF PENNSYLVANIA, DELIVERED A STINGING ATTACK ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE POLICY THAT HE AND THE PRESIDENT HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AND ALTHOUGH THE TONE MAY HAVE BEEN LOST ON THE PRESS, IT WAS NOT MISSED BY PARTY LEADERS WHO HAVE BEEN CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE DEBATE OVER THE FOREIGN AND DEFENSE PLANKS IN THE PLATFORM.

7. IN HIS EXPOSITION, SCHWEIKER DERIDED THE RECORD OF WHAT HE CALLED THE "FORD-KISSINGER" STEWARDSHIP AS ONE "SO WEAK THAT OUR PLATFORM CANNOT EMBRACE IT." AND, IN LANGUAGE THAT EVEN KISSINGER'S HARSHTEST CRITICS FROM THE FAR RIGHT HAVE BEEN SLOW TO USE, THE REAGAN ALLY SAID: "I BELIEVE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF CYNICAL BIG POWER POLITICS CONDUCTED BY ONE MAN WITH A BRIEFCASE WHO IS MORE AFRAID OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAN OF OUR ADVERSARIES."

8. THE IMPACT OF THE CRITICISM CAN BE BEST MEASURED AGAINST A STATEMENT IN THE DRAFT PLATFORM ORIGINALLY PREPARED AS THE WHITE HOUSE STARTING POINT IN ARRIVING AT A STATEMENT OF REPUBLICAN POLICY FOR THE 1976 CAMPAIGN. ALTHOUGH THE SECTION ON FOREIGN POLICY NEVER MENTIONED DETENTE SPECIFICALLY, IT DEFENDED THE KISSINGER POSITIONS ON A WHOLE SERIES OF ISSUES AND POINTEDLY ON HIS FEELING THAT SOME QUESTIONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY SHOULD BE LEFT OUTSIDE THE AREAS OF NATIONAL DEBATE.

9. THAT DRAFT PLATFORM SAID THENATIONAL DEFENSE PLANNING UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOULD BE LEFT TO CONGRESS AND TO THE PRESIDENT, AND NO ONE ELSE.

10. "IT CANNOT BE THE SUBJECT OF PARTISAN DISPUTES. IT SHOULD NOT BE HELD HOSTAGE TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL ADVENTURISM," THE DRAFT PLATFORM SAID, USING LANGUAGE ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HIMSELF USED EARLIER THIS YEAR IN TRYING TO REBUT RONALD REAGAN'S

ATTACKS ON AMERICAN MILITARY PREPAREDNESS.

11, REAGAN'S CAMPAIGN STRATEGISTS HAVE NOT DECIDED YET HOW FAR TO GO IN TRYING TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF KISSINGER, BUT SOME OF THE EXTREMISTS FROM THE RIGHT SUPPORTING THE

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATIVE HAVE SHOWN LITTLE HESITANCY.

12. FOR EXAMPLE, JOHN EAST OF NORTH CAROLINA, A CONSERVATIVE ACADEMICIAN, SPENT MUCH OF HIS TIME TESTIFYING BEFORE THE FOREIGN AND DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE THE OTHER DAY IN ATTACKING KISSINGER'S POLICIES ON EVERYTHING FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO RHODESIAN CHROME.

13. THE ASSAULT WAS SO HARSH THAT ONE OF FORD'S PRINCIPAL SPOKESMEN ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE, SENATE MINORITY LEADER HUGH SCOTT, FELT OBLIGED REPEATEDLY TO TRY TO PLACE ATTACKS ON KISSINGER IN THE CONTEXT OF REPUBLICAN PUBLIC CRITICISM OF A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT.

14. ONE PROPOSAL BY EAST, FOR EXAMPLE, SCOTT CHARACTERIZED AS LANGUAGE THAT "CAN ONLY BE INTERPRETED AS AN ATTACK ON THE PRESENT POLICIES OF A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT. I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD BE JUMPING ON OUR OWN."

15. AT ANOTHER POINT SCOTT SAID THAT THE CRITICISM OF KISSINGER POLICIES MEANT THAT FORD WAS "BEING WOUNDED" BY THOSE WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO BE HIS FRIENDS. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE201677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REBUTLER:REB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760312-0488
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760855/aaaabvew.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <03 JAN 2005 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, US, WASHINGTON STAR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (GERMOND, JACK W),
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006